Spouth Inited Chater Ton



UNITED CHRISTIAN YOUTH ACTION





Harry A. Lemmon

Three teen-agers in the booth near the juke box talk about the Christian faith, the church, and race prejudice.

Evangelism

through

United Christian Youth Action

A Guide to the United Christian Youth Mission

Price, 35 cents

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THE UNITED CHRISTIAN YOUTH MISSION

in the Community

To help others come into a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ and enter the Christian fellowship is a great opportunity for Christian youth. A normal result of Christian faith is the desire to share that faith with others. Jesus commissioned his disciples with that mission and a characteristic of Christians across the centuries has been a compelling zeal to share their faith with others.

Nearly half the youth in this country belong to no church. This is a challenge to Christian young people. To find those outside the church and share the Christian faith with them is the mission on which Christ sends his modern

disciples.

The United Christian Youth Mission is a community approach to this challenge. Individual churches each have youth evangelism programs. Community projects can make a greater impact on unchurched youth than the sum of the individual effort. The Mission's united effort by the churches to reach the unchurched youth in the community in no sense replaces local church evangelism, but adds to it.

A United Christian Youth Mission accomplishes the following:

- Discovers unchurched youth through a youth religious census

 Assigns each unchurched youth as a special responsibility of some church and some member within that church

Interprets the Christian faith through community meetings and discussion groups

- Trains youth in natural, effective calling-"fellowship cultivation"

- Guides youth in everyday witness to the Christian faith

- Strengthens church youth programs through seminars and self study

A Mission is no easy job. It requires careful planning and a willingness of each youth fellowship member to assume responsibility for calling, publicizing the Mission, and attending the meetings.

I How This Manual Helps You

This manual does three things

- Outlines the program

- Describes community set-up for it

- Suggests activities in the local church essential to the Mission

Study of this manual by community and local church leaders is essential.

No suggestion in a manual, however, can replace the creative plans of the Christian youth council preparing for a Mission. The manual suggests things that should be done. Community and local church leaders will need to take these suggestions and put on them the stamp of their own creative imagination!

Lest we bog down in machinery, the end must always be in view, to share our Christian faith with others. As the details are planned constant prayer and meditation are needed, seeking God's will and guidance. Prayer and meditation

are essential to any planning of details.

A Director is essential to the success of the Mission. He is the speaker at the meetings and guides the total progress of the Mission. These directors are available either through the State Christian Youth Council or the national office. He should make at least one trip to the community prior to the Mission to get acquainted with the leaders and help with the planning.

III Calendar

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY

Here is a sample calendar for a Mission. Details of each event will be described in the balance of the manual. Communities will find it necessary to adapt this calendar to meet special situations. This is particularly true in metropolitan areas and rural counties.

CALENDAR OF THE MISSION

DAY	EVENI	WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY
One month in advance	Youth Regious Census	United Christian Youth Mission Committee
Thursday	Combined Youth Fellow- ship Meeting	United Christian Youth Mission Committee
Friday	1. Fellowship Cultivation	Each Youth Fellow- ship Member
,	2. Seminar for Youth Leaders and Adult Counsellors	United Christian Youth Mission Committee
Saturday	Fellowship Cultivation	Each Youth Fellow- ship Member
Sunday	Community Youth Rally	United Christian Youth Mission Committee
Monday	Youth Fellowship Meeting in each Church	Local Church Youth Fellowship Officers
Tuesday	"My Christian Witness" Conference	United Christian Youth Mission Committee

IV General Plans

A. Let's Get Set for a Mission

DAV

- Present the Mission to the Christian Youth Council for discussion and approval. A trained director might be available for this through the state youth council or the national office.
- Secure the co-operation of the council of churches and/or the ministerial association.
- Appoint a representative committee from the youth council to be the United Christian Youth Mission committee.
- 4. Present the Mission to each youth fellowship in the community.

B. Let's Get Started

1. Begin plans at least six months in advance.

2. Set dates.

3. Secure commitments from local churches.

- 4. Invite a director. He may be secured through the office of the United Christian Youth Mission, 79 East Adams Street, Chicago 3, Illinois, or your state Christian Youth Council office.
- 5. Work out a budget. This should include the following:

a. Travel and subsistence for director

b. Materials

 Administrative Fee (\$10.00 to help cover a portion of the costs of the national office)

d. Incidental expenses

6. Determine method of meeting budget by:

a. Pro rata share from each church

b. Underwriting by youth council, ministerial association, or council of churches

c. Offering at meetings

7. Encourage careful local church planning

C. Publicity—A publicity committee is essential. The Mission should receive publicity through

1. Newspapers

2. Posters-in churches and stores

3. Radio-interviews, announcements, skits, round tables

4. Local churches

V Specific Details of Mission

- A. Youth Religious Census. A subcommittee of the Mission Committee should be responsible for details connected with the census.
 - There are three alternative plans for the census. The Mission committee will have to determine the most feasible one.

a. From lists of high school students

 Secure lists of high school students and of those who have quit to go to work.

- Assign a block of names to each church.

Have each church responsible for securing information from people assigned to it.

b. Informal approach

- Enlist enough workers from the participating churches to have at least two census-takers for each homeroom unit in the high school.

- Assign a homeroom to each team.

 Instruct workers to see each person in that room at a convenient time to secure necessary information.

c. Compilation

Each youth fellowship should compile a list of its own constituents.
 Make a list of all other high school youth whose church affiliation is

Compare these local church lists in a youth council meeting to avoid overlapping.

2. Whatever plan is selected the census committee should

a. Order a sufficient number of census cards. Here is a copy of one:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please list names, ages, and religious preference of all brothers and sisters living at home between the ages of 12 and 24.

Name	Age	Mem- ber	Pre- fer	No Pref.	Church

b. Set time for census to be taken.

c. Publicize the census.

d. Arrange for reporting all cards to the mission committee.

- 3. Assign every name to some church according to his membership or preference.
- 4. A person who indicates no religious preference is assigned to a church according to

a. Where he lives

b. His friends

c. Program of the church that will best meet his needs

B. Combined Youth Fellowship Meeting

1. Purpose of the meeting

a. To understand the meaning of evangelism

b. To inspire youth to participate in the whole Mission

c. To assist in training for fellowship cultivation

d. To complete local church details for the Mission

2. What happens during the meeting

a. A worship service, planned and led by youth

b. A brief address by the directorc. Training for fellowship cultivation

d. Local church huddles in which youth will accept responsibility to cultivate unchurched youth

3. Details to be checked

a. Meeting place secured

b. Publicity

c. Rooms arranged for local church huddles

d. Worship service planned
 Youth participation

Touth partOrganist

- Choir

C. Fellowship Cultivation

Primary responsibility for training and organization for fellowship cultivation lies with the local church. Each pastor should conduct training sessions to help young people in their "cultivation." The "Local Church" section of this manual offers specific suggestions for such training.

D. Seminar for Youth Leaders and Adult Counsellors

1. Purpose of the seminar

a. To study the evangelistic potential of each youth group b. To discover ways youth programs can be strengthened

c. To consider follow-up to the Mission

d. To discuss further local church planning for the Mission

Local church fellowship meeting
 Fellowship cultivation

2. What happens during the seminar?

a. A self-study of the youth programs (The director leads the representatives from each church in the use of "The Evangelistic Potential of the Youth Fellowship," with discussion following the scoring.)

b. General discussion of ways to strengthen youth fellowship program

c. Sharing plans for follow-up

d. Discussion of local church plans for the balance of the Mission

3. Details to be checked

a. Time and place of meeting b. Pencils provided for scoring

c. Adequate publicity among the churches

- E. Community Youth Rally
 - 1. Purpose of the Rally
 - a. To provide a united witness to the Christian faith

b. To challenge youth with the Christion faith

c. To give youth an opportunity to register a commitment

2. What happens during the rally

a. A youth planned and led worship service

b. An address by the director

c. A commitment service led by the director. The accompanying commitment form will be used:

My Christian Purpose

Christ came that you may have life and have it abundantly.

- ... I now accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. I will give him my supreme allegiance.
- ... I now reaffirm my faith in Christ and again pledge my supreme allegiance to him.
- ... I now pledge to join a study class to learn more about the church and the Christian life.

Signed

The service will aim toward recognition of commitment in the youth fellowship meetings.

3. Details to be checked

a. Worship service planned

b. Pencils arranged for commitment service

c. Commitment cards distributed

- d. Adequate publicity
- F. Youth Fellowship Meeting in Each Church

(See the "Local Church" section of this manual for more detail.)

1. Purpose of the meeting

a. To relate community activities, fellowship cultivation, the youth rally, etc., to the local church

b. To provide opportunity for Christian fellowship

c. To discuss more fully the meaning of commitment and the Christian life.

d. To help make commitment become alive in a local church

2. What happens in the meetings

a. A well planned informal recreation period

- b. A carefully planned discussion period on the meaning of commitment and the Christian life
- c. An informal service of commitment conducted by the pastor
- 3. Details to be checked
 - a. Recreation
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Publicity
- G. Conference on "My Christian Witness"
 - 1. Purpose of the conference

a. To relate commitment to daily life

- b. To discuss various avenues for Christian witness
 - Personal life
 - Community
 - World

The pamphlet, My Christian Witness, has been developed for use in these conferences to stimulate thought and discussion.

2. What happens during the conference

a. Worship service by director.

b. Introductory remarks by the director.

c. Break into discussion groups using the pamphlet, My Christian Witness as a guide.

d. Reassemble for prayer and benediction

3. Details to be checked:

a. Copies of pamphlet, My Christian Witness, distributed

b. Discussion leader for each group

H. Additional meetings where possible:

- 1. Assembly of high school youth. This should be in a church adjacent to the school, perhaps sponsored by the Hi-Y or Y-Teens.
- 2. Prayer fellowship groups. Small prayer fellowship groups can be started to undergird the Mission with prayer. Such groups could be interdenominational. These can be the source of fruitful discussion out of which could grow profound inspiration for evangelism.

VI Older Youth

The United Christian Youth Mission is primarily a high school youth program, since most communities have very little co-operative work among older youth.

The program of the Mission lends itself to older youth participation, however. With certain adaptations an older youth emphasis can be an integral part of the Mission or a special emphasis at another time.

The census will of necessity be the compilation procedure. Old high school class books, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. records, plant personnel records, and the like are excellent sources for names.

A special meeting of older youth should be held to discuss problems relating to older youth work. A seminar for youth leaders and counsellors is also helpful.

It is urged that where a Mission is held the planning committee consider very carefully older youth participation. The committee should work with the director for the Mission and the national office for assistance in planning this phase.

A CHECK LIST

This is a summary of steps to be taken by the committee planning the United Christian Youth Mission.

ited	Christian	Youth Mission.
	PRES	SENTATION—Outline the Mission to
		The youth council
		The council of churches and ministerial association
		Each local church
	APPF	ROVAL-Secure official approval of the Mission by
		Each local church youth group
		Ministerial association and council of churches
		Governing bodies of the churches
	DAT	
		Set a date for the Mission.
		Set a daily schedule for the Mission.
		MITTEES ORGANIZED
		Mission committee.
	• • • • • • • •	Subcommittees
		(1) Census
	DIID	(2) Publicity
	BUD	
		Set up a budget for the Mission.
		Estimate the cost and plan ways of meeting the expenses.
		CTOR Secure a director.
		Correspond with him to let him know of your plans.
		LICITY-Publicize the Mission through
	• • • • • • •	Newspapers (Ask the director to send you a picture and a brief
		biography about himself).
	CEN	
		Adopt the method of taking the census.
		Set the date.
		Process the cards for assignment to local churches.
		ERIALS
		Order all necessary materials for the Mission from
		United Christian Youth Mission
		79 East Adams Street
		Chicago 3, Illinois
		Evangelism through United Christian Youth Action .35 per copy
		"Youth Religious Census" cards \$3.00 per 1,000
		"My Christian Purpose" cards \$1.50 per 100
		"My Christian Witness" pamphlets .05 single copy
		\$2.25 per 100
		"The Evangelistic Potential of the Youth Fellowship" \$2.00
		per 100
	DET	AILS

..... Meeting places
..... Worship services
..... Dinner and recreational activities
..... Pencils for commitment service

in the Local Church

The United Christian Youth Mission is a co-operative interdenominational program. Its only success will grow out of active local church participation. It is designed to be an integral part of the local church's witness for Christ. In this project the programs of each church are joined in a united effort to reach the unchurched for Christ.

The heart of the Youth Mission, then, is the local church. All activities in the Mission flow out of established youth programs and feed back into them renewed concern in evangelism, wider responsibility lists, and some understanding of the strength of the united impact for Christ upon the community.

I Preliminary Responsibilities

- A. Initiation and organization for the Mission. Each local church should
 - 1. Be represented on the United Christian Youth Mission Committee
 - 2. Consider carefully its participation in the Mission

- youth group

- official board of church

3. Keep fully informed regarding plans as they develop

B. Preparation in local church

 A series of discussions on the Christian faith and evangelism prepares members for dynamic and meaningful participation in the Mission. An essential for adequate evangelism is a wholesome understanding of what the Christian faith is.

2. Prayer fellowship groups help undergird the whole project with prayer.

C. Promotion of the Mission. The most effective publicity for the Mission will be through the local churches. Once a decision is made to participate in the Mission, the youth group should

1. Encourage attendance at all meetings

2. Promote the Mission through posters, church bulletin announcements, and individual contact

11 Training for Fellowship Cultivation

Much of the success of the Mission will depend upon the care with which youth are trained to "cultivate" unchurched young people. The aim of the Mission is to have everyone not actively related to a church called upon by a representative of some church. Adequate training in technique always presupposes careful study of the Christian faith—that which is to be shared.

A. What is the meaning and purpose of fellowship cultivation?

Fellowship cultivation is a natural sharing of one youth with another about Christ and the church. Young people are naturally gregarious, and need intimate fellowship in a warm, friendly group. Fellowship cultivation is the visits, the contacts, and the discussions one person has with an unchurched friend in the name of Christ.

Fellowship cultivation arises out of a warm, dynamic fellowship within the church. It represents the overflowing of such fellowship into contacts

young people make with those outside.

The meaning of fellowship cultivation is missed when it is considered only as being friendly with people, or of trying to get others to come to a youth group for a good time. It is concerned with the basic realities of the Christian faith. Friendliness and fellowship are the medium through which one cultivates another at the deepest levels of Christian life and experience.

Fellowship cultivation does not aim at immediate decision, the signing of any card or the like. It builds on the understanding of the dynamic character of life in which each aspect is related to the other. Careful cultivation and preparation is essential before a person is ready to enter into a living relation

with God through Christ.

Fellowship cultivation cannot be thought of, then, as a campaign with certain definite results in mind. In a Mission special emphasis is given to fellowship cultivation, but it must be seen as a part of the continuing witness of Christians. It does not aim primarily to build up a particular program but is a natural sharing of friend with friend of the unspeakable riches of God in Jesus Christ.

B. How can youth be trained for fellowship cultivation?

Far more important than that certain details and techniques be mastered is that youth shall understand the basic character of fellowship cultivation, its warmth of human fellowship, its depth of Christian understanding,

and its concern for the thoughts and feelings of the "cultivated."

Fellowship cultivation must always be grounded in a thorough understanding of the Christian faith. It must flow out of deep commitment, not merely out of a good-time group. Preparation through study groups and discussion sessions on the Christian faith is more vital than specific techniques. Ability to verbalize one's Christian faith will come out of such study and discussion.

C. Specific suggestions for training.

1. Help the cultivator to understand each person as an individual. His cultivation will be long range and hence his understanding should be the same. Each individual must be approached differently. The Christian faith will need to be interpreted in the light of each person's own experience and understanding.

a. He can list facts about his prospects, such as

- His interests

- Organizations he belongs to

- His gang

- His family background

- Whether he ever went to church
- b. He can find out about him from others.

2. Suggest ways of awakening interest

a. Make a point to see the person. Don't wait for the accidental contact. He may be seen at a soda shop, in the locker room, or at home. It is important that a natural, not artificial, situation be used.

b. Talk to him about the things that interest him. Answer questions

simply, and with understanding.

c. Relate the Christian faith to the concerns and interests he has.

- d. Share with him your convictions about the Christian life and the church.
- e. Let him know that you want him to be a part of the youth fellowship, that he is welcome, and that in it he will find a great deal for every area of his life. Through it he can find a living, vital relationship with God and enter into active church membership.

Suggest some possible objections that may be faced.a. "I can be as good outside the church as in it."

That may be true. There is far more to the Christian life than obedience to certain standards of conduct. The church is the fellowship through which one comes into a faithful relationship to God. This is the source of true morality. The church also is the fellowship from which one receives guidance and support in right conduct.

b. "There are too many hypocrites in the church."

God alone is the judge of other people. Church members sin. No one claims perfection. "The Church is not made up of saints, but saints in the making." The Church is the means through which men may constantly confess their sins and receive power from God to live new lives. Our concern should not be with the sin of others, but with the possibilities of our own lives under God.

c. "I was forced to go to church when I was a child, and I just grew out

out of it."

A child does many things he does not want to do—for his own good. A parent is concerned for the welfare of the child. No one refuses to eat because he was forced to eat as a child. The church gives mature insights for adult life.

d. "I don't go to church because I want to have a good time."

What does he mean by a good time? What are the standards of happiness which he holds? If those standards are low, he will be very unhappy in his pursuit of happiness. If they are high, happiness can only be guaranteed through faith in God. That happiness will not be the superficial enjoyment of the senses, but deeper satisfactions of mind, heart, and will. No man is truly happy who seeks pleasure as an end in itself. Lasting pleasures are those arising out of a vital faith in God.

e. "I can't go to church because I'm not good enough."

Who sets the standard of goodness for the church? The Pharisees were horrified that Jesus associated with the tax collectors and sinners. Just as a doctor seeks to heal those who are ill, the church ministers to

those who fall down on life's road. The church is not a fellowship of the perfect, but of sinners trying, by God's grace, to do better.

f. "Christian faith won't take away the problems I face."

No, but it does give the power to face those problems with courage and confidence. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Tho the outward body is wasting away, the inward man is renewed day by day." Christians who went through concentration camps during the war found that to be true. Their sufferings were not any less, but they found in God the strength to face their sufferings.

g. "I don't like the minister, the choir, the people, or the service of the

church."

Are these the things which make up the Christian life? Does not being a Christian go far deeper than personal likes or dislikes? The living Word of God is spoken in church. We hear that Word when we go to church in faith, regardless of whether we like the choir, or whether the minister is as dynamic a speaker as we would like.

h. "Let me think it over. I'm not prepared yet."

This can be either a "stall" or an honest desire to know more about Christ and the church. This provides an excellent opportunity to suggest that he attend the youth group or the pastor's instruction class to learn what is involved in faith.

D. Some techniques for training

Techniques of any kind are useless apart from a solid understanding of the Christian faith and what it means to the individual caller. The training techniques should be aids to help the young person verbalize his convictions in different situations.

1. Role-playing. Set up a hypothetical situation. Have one play the role of an unchurched youth being visited by two representatives of your church. Let the one bring the natural objections and the others give

a. Follow such a demonstration with group discussion.

b. Provide for every person in the group to have an opportunity to be the "cultivator."

A valuable part of this training is that principles of good visiting

are interpreted through the experiences of youth themselves.

2. Buzz-groups. This is an effective technique in which the leader opens the area of discussion with significant remarks and pertinent questions. The group is divided into small groups of four to six people for very careful discussion. Sharing of major insights and questions with the whole group gives everyone a chance to know the thinking of others.

3. Flip-charts, filmstrips, and other audio-visual aids. Several denominations have such aids for training. The most effective training comes when these are used in connection with role-playing and buzz-groups.

4. Be sure to arrange for reporting sessions and periodic review of the train-

A. Census Cards

Cards received in the census should be gone over very carefully by the youth fellowship officers with the minister and adult counsellor. These cards should be studied to know who might best contact them. The cards should be kept on file at the church. Any helpful information should be given the visitor about anyone he accepts as his responsibility.

B. Combined Youth Fellowship Meeting (Thursday evening)

This will include all youth fellowship members from all the churches participating in the Mission. It is the kick-off for the entire Mission. It will inspire young people to take evangelism seriously. Plans for the rest of the Mission will be discussed.

Local church responsibility comes in the huddle which will take place after an address by the director. These huddles should be planned well in advance so that they will be most helpful to the young people. These huddles will accomplish the following:

1. Training for fellowship cultivation will be reviewed.

Each young person will be assigned one or more unchurched youth as his responsibility. Names are assigned to various churches by the community Mission committee.

3. This manual should be gone over carefully to see that all of the plans

of the local church for the rest of the Mission are completed.

C. Seminar for youth officers and adult counsellors

The pastor, the youth leaders, and the adult counsellors should attend this seminar. Full participation in the seminar should result in stronger youth programs in the local churches. Certainly everyone will go away with new ideas. The director of the Mission will lead the seminar but in order for him to make the time most meaningful each participant should be prepared to list the main questions he wants discussed. The purpose of this seminar is to:

1. Study the evangelistic potential of each youth group.

2. Consider ways youth programs can be strengthened.

Consider follow-up to the Mission.

4. Discuss further local church planning for the Mission.

- Local church fellowship meeting.

- Fellowship cultivation.

D. Youth fellowship meetings in each church.

A most important local church aspect of the Mission comes when any decisions made during the Mission are recorded. All commitments are recorded in the life of a church. Youth are not asked to commit themselves merely to generalities. Commitment must find a place where it can be nourished and grow. The local church is the only place where that can happen. This fellowship meeting should include the following:

1. An informal period of recreation led by a capable young person.

Recreation should be carefully planned to include everyone. This should be an occasion when everyone is included in the fellowship.

2. Discussion on the meaning of commitment.

a. What is commitment?

b. What does it mean in my life?

c. How is it related to my everyday life?

3. An informal worship service with the pastor in charge. Each person will have an opportunity to record his commitment. The pastor should make this part of the meeting friendly and informal, but it should be an inspiring commitment service. This service is important even though the young person may first have been challenged in the community service. All commitments should be made within the fellowship of the local church. A normal result of these commitments should be participation in church membership and study classes.

IV Follow-up

The values of a United Christian Youth Mission cannot be measured in terms of one week. An adequate follow-up in each local church is essential if the values of the Mission are to be preserved. Evangelism should become a more vital part of youth programs. Evangelistic possibilities should be seen in every phase of the program. Here are some suggestions for following up the Mission:

A. Pastors should have a personal interview with each person who made a de-

cision.

B. A church membership class and a study group on the Christian faith might be developed to help youth understand more about the Christian faith and church membership.

C. Materials on youth evangelism can be secured from denominational head-

quarters. These will help in further planning for evangelism.

D. Plan to continue fellowship cultivation. Stock should be taken periodically of the progress being made in these endeavors. Special efforts should be made frequently.

E. Recognize and use the fact that every Sunday school class, youth group, or service activity in the church has evangelistic potential. Unchurched youth

can be challenged with the gospel through any of these means.

F. Share regularly with other churches the plans and projects under way in evangelism. A great deal can be learned from other churches.

V Conclusion

The United Christian Youth Mission is a community program of evangelism. Its significance is measured by what happens in local churches. What happens during the Mission must find expression in local youth groups. Throughout the Mission must find expression in local youth groups.

sion the local church is the center of activity.

If the Mission is entered into prayerfully by the pastors, adult counsellors, and the youth, its influence will be great in the lives of young people. The Mission is an opportunity for youth and adults to join together in sharing the Christian faith with others.

UNITED CHRISTIAN YOUTH ACTION Materials

Basic Material:
Christian Youth in Cooperative Action
UCYM Manuals:
OCTM Manuals.
Evangelism through United Christian Youth Action—A guide
to the United Christian Youth Mission 35c
Community Service through United Christian Youth Action—
A guide to weekend work camping 30c
World Christian Citizenship through United Christian Youth
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inational, state or pravincial headquarters, or from the

A set of seven filmstrips, seven recordings on 10" discs, 33 1/3 rpm microgroove, and utilization guides in carrying case. The first and last filmstrips deal with the youth fellowship and youth council; the other five are concerned with the commissions or program areas of Christian faith, Christian witness, Christian citizenship, Christian outreach, Christian fellowship. The titles of the filmstrips are:

We Have This Fellowship	\$10.00
The Faith of a Guy	10.00
Gallery of Witnesses	10.00
I Found a New World	15.00
The Measure of a Man	15.00
How Wide Is Our Circle	10.00
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